



ASSEMBLYMEMBER  
**NICOLE PARRA**

Representing the 30th Assembly District



## Parra Notes

March 31, 2008

Hello Friends,

**Over a year ago, I took over as Chair of the New Democrats.** Formerly known affectionately as the *MOD Squad*, the New Dems is a network of legislators in California that pursues common sense public policies which transcend partisan extremes and reflect the pragmatic views held by the majority of Californians.

Since taking over as Chair, I embarked on giving Legislators a first hand look at many of our state's industries, visiting with key business leaders to learn about their companies, the challenges they have, and the role that legislators play in helping maintain a vibrant and diverse economy here in California. We have taken members to **Silicon Valley to meet with high tech leaders** who are pushing the technological envelope to dramatically improve the efficiency of solar panels. And to **La Jolla to meet with biotech pioneers** who are developing the latest pharmaceutical and biologics.

We visited **Shasta and Humboldt counties to see our state's forest industry hard and work.** And to **Hollywood to learn about the challenges our storied movie industry faces in our increasingly digital and online world.**

**The New Democrats have been active in getting members, especially freshmen members, to understand productive ways the private and public sectors can work together.** As Chair, I have put together policy briefings in the Capitol, including a noted academic from the University of Southern California to discuss **private-public partnerships**, and California Air Resources Board Chair Mary Nichols to share with Members the **impact on our state's industry in a post-AB 32 world.**

Now, I proudly relinquish the reigns as Chair and **welcome Assemblymember Jose Solorio (D-Santa Ana)** as the new Chair of the New Democrats. I appreciate the opportunity to have led this important caucus and extend my thanks to my legislative colleagues for their commitment to improving California's business climate and the economic well-being of our citizens.

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**What's Happening in Sacramento**

**California Agriculture Day was celebrated on March 25.** California is the number one agricultural state in the nation and produces the most diverse products in the world, with over 350 crops and commodities. From only 3% of the nation's farmland, California supplies more than half of the domestic supply of fruits, vegetables and nuts, and 20% is shipped around the world. California's farmers also lead the world in technological innovation by utilizing the latest advances in science and food safety technology. Additionally, the industry is continually developing programs to improve the safety and quality of our food. [www.cdfa.ca.gov/agday08](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/agday08)

**Members of the California State Legislature gathered together on the Assembly Floor to hear California Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald George deliver the State of the Judiciary address.** Unfortunately, many regions of our state, including the Central Valley, face a shortage of judges in the courts. Recognizing the current fiscal crisis, the Chief Justice offered compelling testimony to the dire needs of the court system, and the current case overload faced by our quality jurists, in California. [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/supreme](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/supreme)

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**My Legislative Highlights**

**I was honored to be named one of Central Valley Business Street's "Influential Women 100".** These 100 women exemplify leadership qualities in their businesses and have contributed to the community at large. The women are diverse and come from a wide range of professional fields. Their backgrounds include education and health care, and many are city and county officials and business CEOs. All 100 women are featured on the "Influential Women 100" Web site [www.iw100.com](http://www.iw100.com).

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**Constituents Visit Sacramento**

**Thank you to Brian Gonzales, Truant Officer for the Kings County Office of Education, for coming to Sacramento to testify on behalf of my bill, AB 2061.** This legislation would allow local school districts to recoup a greater portion of Average Daily Attendance (ADA) revenues lost because of habitual truancy. This bill would increase fines for students convicted of habitual truancy. It is supported by the Kings County Office of Education and the Kings County District Attorney. [www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/acsframeset2text.htm](http://www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/acsframeset2text.htm)

I am pleased to announce that the California Department of Housing and Community Development has awarded loans from the Farmworker Housing Grant Program to various entities in the 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. **Awardees include the Lamont Family Apartments project in the City of Lamont, the Bakersfield Family Apartments in the City of Bakersfield, and the McFarland Farmworker Apartments in the City of McFarland.** These funds expand housing and homeownership opportunities for all Californians.

**Congratulations to Tulare County,** which recently received a grant from the California Department of Housing and Community Development. The grant is from the Community Development Block Grant program to expand housing, community development, and economic development for all Californians.

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### In the District

**I was honored to join Governor Schwarzenegger in Bakersfield for a roundtable discussion regarding budget reform.** The Governor and I met with local elected officials and community and business leaders to talk about our state's budget process and challenges. There is no easy solution to cover our budget shortfall. Many important government services such as education, public safety, and economic development programs should not be reduced any further. Along with the Governor, I continue to support structural changes to the way our state generates revenues and allocates expenditures. [www.gov.ca.gov/index.php?/fact-sheet/9164/](http://www.gov.ca.gov/index.php?/fact-sheet/9164/)

**Congratulations to the Kern County Firefighters, I.A.F.F. Local 1301, for 50 years of incredible service to the community.** I was proud to join these brave men and women in **Bakersfield** as they celebrated many achievements and a strong track record of protecting life and property throughout Kern County.

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### Meeting Requests

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Rozanne Jones** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at [Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov)

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### Internships

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at: [Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov)

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at: [Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov)

For Sacramento office internships contact **Derek Chernow** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at: [Derek.Chernow@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Derek.Chernow@asm.ca.gov)

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